



CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

# NEWS Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## National Guard Soldiers Return From Hurricane Relief Duty

Sacramento, Calif. – More than 100 California National Guard Soldiers and Airmen that have been providing Hurricane Katrina relief in the Gulf Coast will be returning to Mather Field at approximately 4:00 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 16, 2005.

The Army Guard Soldiers are primarily from the 870<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company based in Pittsburgh, Calif.; the Airmen are from the 163<sup>rd</sup> Air Refueling Wing, March Air Reserve Base, Riverside, Calif. Additional Soldiers and Airmen from other units around the state are also returning with these units.

These troops were some of the first National Guard men and women to be deployed to the region after California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger mobilized the California National Guard on Sept. 1.

The California National Guard's troops, representing 20 different Army and Air Guard units, reacted quickly, performing search and rescue missions, adding security to Louis Armstrong Airport, augmenting security presence in the business areas in downtown Orleans Parish, evacuating residents, handing out water and MREs (Meals Ready to Eat), loading pallets of containers for movement to shelters and evacuation staging areas, and maintaining a steady flow of uninterrupted logistical relief to Bayou residents.

The deployed soldiers received very little warning for the deployment, but because the California National Guard has historically responded from between a third to half of the Nation's emergencies during the last two decades. This experience paid off instantly as Soldiers and Airmen with little or no preparation time reported for duty.

The California National Guard has nearly 20,000 Soldiers and Airmen. More than 5,000 are deployed around the world in support of the Global War on Terrorism and nearly 1,000 are supporting Katrina disaster relief operation, leaving nearly two-thirds of its force available for any state contingency.

Media wishing to cover this even are requested to contact the California National Guard public affairs office at 916-854-3304 with the names of the reporters and photographers to coordinate access to the flight line at Mather Field.